



Roller derby for charity
Great Lakes and Western Ontario roller derby teams are competing for charity.

SPOKE

A LEARNING HENSBROOM FOR JOURNALISM STUDENTS



Consider soaring high
Come stop athletes involved at banquet Page 13

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 2012

COMSTOCK COLLEGE, PITCHER, ONT.

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4160 YEARS - NO. 14

Taking learning to new heights

By MICHELLE HARRISON

Comstock College has just signed up with Great Lakes Helicopters to offer students the option to get their commercial helicopter license as part of the general arts and sciences rotation program.

"This program is designed for us right off in going to someone with the same diploma as the art, a general arts and sciences rotation Ontario college diploma. The only difference was in the helicopter option," said Gordon Greenblatt, the chair of communications and liberal studies at Comstock.

Students who opt in to the new helicopter option will have the same academic requirements as those in their general arts and sciences rotation track, but they will complete their training through Great Lakes Helicopters instead of the Western Washington flight school.

Students are based at the Rapids at Western International Airport.

Students will have to choose their aircraft at the time of enrollment. Some interest has already been expressed around the helicopter sale for the September 2012 start date, despite the fact of delaying due to the late addition of the program option.



Bob Layburn, right, president of Great Lakes Helicopters, and Bob Early, executive director of academic administration at Comstock College, who sits in an R22 helicopter, introduced a new helicopter pilot training option being introduced to the general arts and sciences rotation program at a meeting April 8.

"This is a vacancy and need for helicopter pilots," said Greenblatt. A shortage of helicopter pilots — an flying a helicopter requires a completely separate skill set from flying a plane — affects places all over the world, but just Canada alone is looking to have over 100 helicopter pilots within the next year.

It is an industry where good

pilots are hard to come by. It would be expected that people would be jumped at the potential ear-earn salary that comes from flying a helicopter. Unfortunately, like most jobs, everyone is looking for experience.

"The future, of course, comes in the fact that someone is getting paid a \$1 million to \$1.5-million helicopter to fly

around in the sky, they want you to have some sort of experience," said Greenblatt.

Someone who just got his commercial helicopter license will generally spend his first few years in low-paying jobs to gain hours. As most helicopter flying is done solo and most early flying experience is gained from the cockpit alone, getting the required

hours can prove to be difficult. Some students will also be deterred by the \$75,000 needed to take the helicopter option.

"The fixed wing option is \$35,000. The good thing is when students graduate from the Comstock program, they are ready to college diploma in hand for related aerodynamics."

Having that diploma could put Comstock graduates one step ahead of those who get their commercial helicopter license elsewhere.

"After graduation at where the difficulty occurs, because there's probably about three or four years of extra work flying in there that's needed before you're really, really marketable. We're taking one step towards that with this program," said Greenblatt.

The program plans to be a low-cost alternative to make early money.

"We've planned to have a up and training," Greenblatt said, "and we're very much hoping that, we've got a good number of airplanes and a good student body that will benefit from this. It's going to be a five-year before we see how well it has to turn out, if you consider the experience, but it is definitely going to be good for the students and in flying a need."

Earth Day encourages us to make a difference

By MICHELLE HARRISON

When we consider that each person throws away approximately four pounds of garbage every day and over 14 billion pounds of trash in the world each year, it's no wonder our Earth is beginning to look abused.

The results of our careless care are shocking. For a moment of wood and paper that we need is enough to beat 100 and less, because for 20 years, about five million tons of old paper each year ends up in the ocean and the last post is.

Though we can't eliminate our impact here on cleaning up the world, we can take one day to make it a better place.

On April 22, millions of people will celebrate Earth Day, a day dedicated to improving our environment and taking responsibility for it. The first

Earth Day was in 1970 and it was almost to be observed on April 22 as this is the first day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere and the first day of fall in the Southern Hemisphere.

If each person takes part in this day, even in a small way, it can make dramatic difference. Recycling one glass bottle produces enough energy to power a traditional light bulb for four hours.

Keith Trellis, director of communications of Earth Day Canada, says it all comes down to personal responsibility.

"The change we make in our day today here after have negative impacts on water, air, land, etc. Our greatest challenge is to create consistent, unaltered programs that understand the impact of these decisions and actions. We need

to be more 'pro-planet' instead of 'pro-car' which means we should act the following questions before purchasing something: some goods can you make do with what you already have, how does your purchase impact the environment, what is the life cycle of the item?"

According to Lisa Swann, VP of communications and marketing at Earth Day Network, climate change should be a focus for students and individual acts.

"The vast majority of scientists agree that climate change exists and is man-made and that we need to make reductions in our carbon footprint as individuals at College students

are also those on making their campus greener with energy efficient buildings, solar energy, recycling less paper, recycling other supplies

and saving locally sourced, organic food in the cafeteria. College students can also focus on having Earth Day activities and on joining Earth Day Network," said Swann.

There are various activities that students can participate in this day, including making electronic, walking or biking instead of driving, making a hole hole rather than parking, planting a tree or even creating a garden or even just picking up some litter.

"The key is to do something something that everyone involved (the bus comes into play through the design of the activity and the reduction of the car's footprint)," said Trellis.

"In the end, the most important thing that students can do is to make a positive impact and taking greater responsibility in enough to motivate them to do more."



Photo by MICHELLE HARRISON

The butterfly effect is when a small change in one place can make a large difference anywhere. The same thing applies to our Earth's own environment (such as recycling) can make a world of difference.

The end is near

But it's a good thing:
the school year is almost over

BY KIMMY FREEMAN

The school year is almost at an end, but for most college students, this is the most stressful time of the semester. Exams are approaching. Final project due dates are creeping up, and there is never enough time in a day. It becomes a struggle to balance not just the workload, but life.

There is officially less than a week until exams start. That means students must try and schedule periods between meals and class to get some studying done. It can never hurt to over prepare, but remember to take breaks as often as you need them to refresh your mind.

Exercise is a great way to unwind, whether it is going for a walk or revving it up with a run or strenuous workout at the gym.

Eating properly and getting enough sleep are important too, so be sure to fit them in between your late-night study sessions. Most adults should try to get seven to eight hours of sleep a night to function optimally. Without enough sleep, your brain won't be able to remember any of the information you're trying to learn, and you'll be doing all of this studying for nothing.

Get acquainted with a time table, you will be able to see how much time you have then work to study and plan other events going on. Being organized can help you keep your stress level down.

As the college year comes to an end, for grade, there comes a new beginning. It will be time to start something like full time or a job.

Now each year someone graduates at least, these students will be entering the workforce and putting their knowledge to good use.

If you are graduating, we hope you enjoyed your years at Camosia, and wish you well in your job search as well as lots of health, wealth and happiness.

The views herein represent the opinion of the signatory person, not necessarily the author.

Letters are welcome

Spoke welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be signed and include the name and telephone number of the writer. Letters will be considered for publication. The unsigned letters will be published. Letters should be no longer

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Stress? What stress?

New drug law benefits consumers

On April 7, the Ontario government began what Spoke is, in a long and ugly battle with the pharmaceutical industry and pharmacists. As part of the budget they released on March 20, they will be cutting a \$400 million allowance pharmacists receive to help fund patient services. This allowance is paid by the drug manufacturers to the pharmacy owners (Ontario Minister of Health, Iain Matheson said the allowance have been around going toward hospitals, to fund benefits, to reduce overhead costs and to boost profits).

What does mean for Ontarians is that generic drug prices will drop by 50 per cent to 85 per cent of the cost of the original name brand drug and by 50 per cent for those generic drugs through Ontario's public drug system. Consumers will finally be paying a fair price for our drugs, which Americans have been doing all along.

Companies such as Schering Drug Mart are warning that the new law will only hurt the consumer as they will have to cut back on hours, employees and



Dean
Strasser
Ophthalmologist

other services such as consultations. This is just a typical industry scheme to pressure the government to reverse its decision. Whenever I get a cough, the pharmacist never remembers exactly what I say on the bottle and in the push of information that comes with the medication.

This is a positive step forward for lower health care and consumers. The drug companies get a bad rap for exploiting the consumer but the generic drug companies are far wiser. The name-brand companies such as Pfizer spend hundreds of millions of dollars each year on research and development to create groundbreaking drugs that can improve the lives of many people.

The way the industry works is that when a company such as Pfizer is developing a new product, they apply for a

patent which will allow them to have a 20-year monopoly on whatever drug they are creating. However, this does not mean they actually get to sell the product for 20 years without any competition, because it could take Pfizer the full 20 years to create the new drug. Once the patent expires, the generic drug companies are then allowed to create the same product without ever having to pay any research and development costs. They simply wait for one of the big companies to create the recipe.

Once the patent has expired the generic companies are actually making more money off of the drug than the original creators are. For example, if a name brand product such as Tylenol were to cost \$1, the generic drug would sell for about 80-90 cents. Although the generic companies are selling it for less, they are actually making more because they have to develop no real expense.

The new law will put us on par to all of the rest and force drug companies to finally put the emphasis on patient care rather than big profits.

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STEP P P I N G

OUT!

Rally calls for an end to hate in Waterloo Region

By SUZANNE MERRILL

The opportunity to speak out and stand up against many types of hate and discrimination in Waterloo Region drew about 100 people to Popping Out! For A Safe, Acceptable And Hate-Free Community, a rally against homophobia held at the Waterloo Town Square on April 13.

The event was organized as a response to a recent incident at a Waterloo restaurant where two men, Gary Smith 34, and Jeremy Kirby, 17, were told by Steve Jellie, owner of the Hunter Hotel's Cafe 1842, that the two they desired would not be tolerated at his business.

Heath and Kirby describe their first evening in "a

park" and believe this to be an incident of homophobia, while Jellie said in a public statement posted on Facebook that the couple was engaged in "a long, passionate kissing session" that was not appropriate in his family restaurant regardless of sexual orientation.

A Facebook group Taking Action Against Homophobia in Waterloo Region, was created to bring awareness to the incident at the Hunter Hotel and the happy price of discrimination based on sexual orientation in the region. More than 3,000 people have since posted the quote where many members proudly began expressing the event to allow people to rally against hate in the community.

Heath, a photography student at Cambridge College,

and Kirby a Wilfrid Laurier University film and psychology student, received much applause and shouted words of support when they addressed the crowd.

■

The reality is we are not yet free to be ourselves, to be open about who we are and to see ourselves reflected in the mosaic of our community.

— Deb Gellatly

■

"We experience homophobia almost everyday," said Smith. "Every time we're together we get out radio, stereo, phone —

people will make comments on the street. People ask us why, why did that happen? Why are you gay? Why are you lesbians? You're so pretty."

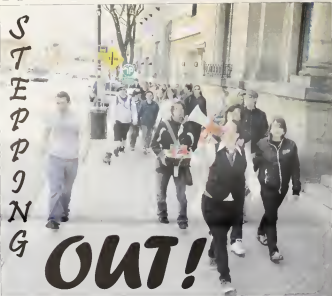
"The reality is we are not yet free to be ourselves, to be open about who we are and to see ourselves reflected in the mosaic of our community," said Deb Gellatly, co-chairperson of local LGBTQ community association, tri Pride. "We are still largely invisible. When those of our community do things to make ourselves visible, we are often confronted with disgust, hate, aggression and even violence. When we speak out about how we are impacted by this, our lives and relations, we are told to be silent. We don't want to be silent anymore."

"We don't want you to toler-

ate us. I don't want tolerance. Think about it, we tolerate things we don't really like. We want more than tolerance. We want inclusion, visibility and the right to celebrate who we are."

The event served as the official launch of tri-Pride's new love spaces campaign that provides rainbow stickers to participating businesses that can be displayed in storefront windows to indicate their welcome and support for the LGBTQ community.

"When we discuss homophobia and violence pertaining to homophobia, homophobia, fear of the unknown, the fully equal, racism, sexism and other issues we need to focus that discussion with the fact that minorities and defending human rights in our country is still a concept."



that it is its identity," said Judith Lewis, human rights officer of the Waterloo Region Labour Council.

Amnesty International member and co-ordinator Mallory Tobias Chordbury, described the recent attack at a restaurant in the Waterloo region as an example of the many different minority groups that have faced in the region.

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We experience homophobia almost everyday. Every time we're together, we get out calls, stares, glares — people will make comments on the street.
— Zoey Heath

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"We are aware that our beliefs," said Chordbury. "We are human beings, unchangeable as matter what they tell you. I'm here to fight both myths and misconceptions. I'm here for solidarity and the perseverance since I'll have the not only tolerating differences, but accepting, understanding and embracing those very differences. We see the many parts of us celebrated apart."

The event culminated by those who had rallied in the square breaking into two groups and marching down the sidewalks on King Street to the Hawthor Hotel for a kiss in on front of Cuts 1842 "White stoness" asked organizer Tanya Chordbury with the aid of a megaphone. "Our stoness" was the crowd's shouted reply.

"There is no boycott against the Hawthor Hotel," said Chordbury. Some individuals have chosen to boycott the Hawthor or just not go in because they don't feel it's a safe space. But as up to the individual. I must certainly do not advocate the making a business if anything, really that they probably learned a lesson."

Michael Doughton, Heath's stepfather, did not believe Heath and Ruby's display of affection on the pub could have been problematic as he described both women as "very private and cautious" people.

"Heath has always been someone who stands up for what she believes in," said Doughton.

"The week old history that we were expected," said Heath, who has been encouraging his to stand were going public for about what happened in the pub. "I was so scared when we first came, but now it's amazing."



Above: Brandon Cloutch, a Waterloo Collegiate Institute student, and Judith L., a University of Waterloo student, showed their support at the event by displaying a rainbow flag while listening to the many speakers at Waterloo Town Square.

Right: David organizers Tanya Chordbury and John Thomas King Cooke talked with other supporters and community members during a "kiss in" in front of the Hawthor Hotel. The idea for the event originated on the Taking Action Against Homophobia in Waterloo Region Facebook page, which was started after the initial kiss between Zoey Heath, 24, and her girlfriend, Jenny Kelly, 27.

Left: Heath and Kelly faced themselves as the center of a debate over homophobia at the community after sharing a kiss at Cuts 1842 in the Hawthor Hotel in Waterloo.



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We don't want you to tolerate us, I don't want tolerance. Think about it: we tolerate things we don't really like. We want more than tolerance. We want inclusion, visibility and the right to celebrate who we are.

— Deb Gelnick

17



Derby girls demolish competition in season opener

By Nick Bardo

The Tri-City Roller Girls certainly know how to hit hard demolishing Greenough's own Girls Derby. On April 23, The Vicious Dishes demolished The Vicious Fly Tramps by a score of 105 to 53 in the season opener of the local roller derby league.

Roller derby is played as two 30-minute halves on a flat oval track. Skaters wear traditional quad-style roller skates and use the more modern safety skates.

Each team consists of five skaters, three blockers, one pivot and one jammer. The blockers and pivots form a pack and set off when the referee blows his whistle. As soon as the back of the pack crosses the start line the referee blows another whistle and the jammer tries to move to the front of the pack meaning a jam has started. Jammers wear a fabric cover with a strap over their helmet. For every blocker and pivot the jammer passes they get a point. The first jammer who passes the entire pack is lead jammer and has the right to end the jam faster than the two skaters they are only beat.

Jammers have the ability to pass their helmet cover to pivot making the pivot a blocker. Blockers and pivots can impede the movement of a jammer by pushing and shoving them with shoulders, legs and upper legs. The use of hands, forearms and feet is not allowed, there are no illegal moves such as trip



PHOTO BY NICK BARD

In roller derby, when one player falls, generally a few others go down with her.

ping, punching or kicking and results in a trip to the penalty box.

Roller derby is exciting to watch and all the money from the ticket sales goes to charity. In the case of this match, all the money went to KalaHobby.

The Vicious Dishes were undefeated last season, the second season ever for the Tri-City Roller Girls. Whisking them play The Vicious Fly Tramps, it is not hard to see why. By the end of the first half they were leading 65 to 25.

The match was held at the Fox Hollow Sports and drew quite the

crowd. Sitting in the stands was, what is the area just outside the perimeter of the track, wife for goalie and a family friend was 30-year old Alex McConnell. She screamed deaf enough loud for the Vicious Fly Tramps and is looking forward to the day when she is old enough to try out for the Tri-City Roller Girls.

Greco Garbano is in her second season with the Vicious Dishes. She is number 553 and plays both blocker and pivot. Her real name is Evelyn Bryant and this is her third year in Greenough's wood working technology

program.

She picked her roller name because she is a fan of Greco Garbo and is "kind of a really hot." Her number is the Whisking police code for a hot and cool. One of the most memorable bits of the night involved Greco Garbano. Late in the first half she hit the Vicious Fly Tramps' Call Block Better with a powerful leg check that sent her sprawling. It also sent Greco into the air as her blocker refused "have a two down to call hard love or hell?" Furthermore, through the second half a Vicious Fly Tramp sent her flying off the track. After the match she said that he left her back "mangled." Despite that she was eager to get to the Champion bar in Whistler to celebrate the season opener with both teams.

Expect to see Greco Garbano and the Vicious Dishes in another undefeated season, as the trip to these games according to Greco is "a fun train ride and hot dates." Check out some locally published ones for more information.

The next bout is a double header with The Vicious Dishes and Vicious Fly Tramps each taking on a team from Toronto at the Arena Spectropolis in Kelowna on May 8. Kids aged 12 and under get in for free. Tickets can be purchased in advance at stores such as Greenhouse X Video in Whistler. Other retailers are listed on the league's website and on their Facebook, MySpace and Twitter pages.

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PLEASE MISS, CAN I HAVE SOME ICE CREAM?



PHOTO BY JACQUELINE HENRI

With the weather warming up, ice cream is back on everyone's mind. The Snow House in Guelph is bustling again with families looking to satisfy their sweet tooth.

COUNSELLOR'S CORNER: Graduation

For many of you, the end of this semester represents the end of your current studies at Conestoga College. You may be ready to begin a new career or ongoing studies. You may be planning to move to a new city or to travel. This transition will be a welcome relief from studying, projects, late nights, and too-short days.

You should feel proud of your accomplishments. You have reached a goal that seemed so far away when you began. Sometimes, you may experience anxiety or doubts: the life you have known is about to change and you aren't exactly sure what the next part of your life will look like. There may be sadness as you leave behind friendships and support systems. You might miss teachers who have been mentors to you. If you remember back to your first semester here, you may have had many of these same feelings, but with time you developed new relationships and opened up to new experiences.

So, as you graduate, take away the gifts of a College certificate, diploma, or degree, new skills, and confidence in your achievements.



Congratulations!

Counselling Services, 1A101



PHOTO BY FRANKLIN CARTER

As I drive past this spot on Blair Road every morning on my way to school, I'm reminded of the time I used to not regret by driving off the road.

Get help

By FRANKLIN CARTER

My second and final year at Conestoga College is almost done. It has been the hardest two years of my life. May 9 will mark the two year anniversary of when my world was completely flipped upside down.

Growing up, I was your normal boy, I played sports, had friends, got laid, got decent marks in school. But just before my 18th birthday, the doctor dropped a bomb: stillborn.

"You have testicular cancer. We have to operate." Those eight words shook the foundation of my life. I always thought there may have been something wrong down there, but I was so the medical team not knowing was better than knowing.

The doctor also told me that since I would be unable to father children in the future. While this would be good news for most guys, I had always looked forward to having children of my own, so this was a tough pill to swallow.

Three months in my pelvis, four painful months in the hospital, and I was sent home. I spent the summer in pain, having trouble to do the things that I loved to do. When my first semester started in September, I was still coping with the pain.

Because of the surgery, I was now being watched by several doctors. I also needed to get regular testosterone injections just to remain "normal." Not getting these injections would mean small erections and loss of bone density and muscle mass. Besides CT scans, bloodwork, as well as trips to the cancer centre in Hamilton.

These CT scans lasted a quarter in my thyroid almost a year after my initial surgery. Another quarter, and three more nights in the hospital.

Later, and now I only have half of my thyroid left.

By this point, many people were noticing that I had put on a lot of weight. Gains like the body that had helped me be a competitor in sports such as lacrosse and hockey. When I had lost was a double reminder of what I used to have. I had put on 70 pounds and was constantly being told by these people around me that I looked fat. Definitely not the kind of thing you want to hear. Because of all of this, I became severely depressed. Feeling like I had no one to talk to, no one who would understand, I just kept it bottled up, and would put on a happy front to please my classmates, teachers, family and friends.

Two months ago, that bottle broke. I tried to do the unthinkable. I tried to kill myself by crashing my car. And while the car and I were still 40 metres off the road, narrowly missing two lanes, I walked away unharmed. My car wasn't in badly. In fact, I called my parents to come get me, and to get me the help I needed.

Today I am better, having gotten help. I am standing once more. Now I can walk up through my doctor's office and I have opened up to my friends and family, letting them know what I have been enduring. I am happy to say that my employer, anyone else who is feeling depressed to talk to someone about it, whether a professional or not, it will help. **SOMEONE** out there can help you through your sadness.

As I write this (something my family said would be a good thing to do), I am preparing to go to a sleep clinic to determine whether I have sleep apnea. My friends are amazed that I can go a year without a major medical problem.



HOROSCOPE

Week of April 19, 2010



Aries
March 21
April 19

At some point this week someone will steal your car keys from you. That is because your town is full of thieves.



Taurus
April 20 - May 20

During the weekend you will decide to find this some one how throws an unruly flag through your window. Your loved ones are not safe.



Gemini
May 21 - June 21

On Friday you will find that your laptop has been stolen in the middle because of your mistake. You should not do make a mistake.



Cancer
June 21 - July 22

At some point during the week you will make up to find that someone is looking in through your window. Thankfully it is just a good quality light window.



Leo
July 23 - August 22

On Sunday you will find that your car has been covered in marijuana. Your roommates are mad at you for being messy in the car.



Virgo
August 23 - September 22

This weekend you will find a puppy living near your house. Do not get too attached. The puppy is severely a sickly child in your eye.



Mick Dasko is a second-year journalism student who makes these up for your amusement.



Libra
September 23
October 23

On Wednesday Johnny Knoxville will come into your place of business and expect him to be in your eye. Be safe for the camera.



Scorpio
October 23 - November 21

On Tuesday you and your friends will decide to get matching Christopher Mulder tattoos on your foreheads. This is a bad idea.



Sagittarius
November 21 - December 21

On Friday you will blow your nose so hard that out of your nostrils will blow out of your face. You should get a good look at.



Capricorn
December 22 - January 19

At some point on the weekend you will be looking down the sidewalk when a small child pretends to die. This will not be you in the car.



Aquarius
January 20 - February 18

At some point on Monday a little girl with a stick found will attempt to steal your shoelaces. Tell them to far for a profit.



Pisces
February 19 - March 20

On Thursday you will find a fingered in your lunch. This is very gross and should be reported to who may be in charge of the sort of thing.

Co-op award winners announced

Three students and one employer honoured at ceremony

BY JENNIFER BROWN

Their hard work has finally paid off. March 22-24 was National Co-op Week, which recognized the value and importance of co-operative education at Canada's colleges and universities.

Conestoga College recognized the occasion by naming the recipients of the Co-op of the Year awards and Co-op Employer of the Year award. The award ceremony was held on March 25 at

Conestoga's Downs campus. The awards recognized co-op students who worked hard and showed dedication throughout their term.

The winners of this year's awards were Lori Beth Proulx from the School of Business, Jen Rhy from the School of Engineering and Information Technology and Shannon Symons from the School of Health and Life Sciences and Community Services.

All the winners received a commemorative certificate

and \$500.

The employer of the year went to Christian Digital Systems Inc. of Buckhorn.

This award acknowledges the support and encouragement that employers give students and also the high quality of professionalism that co-op employees and supervisors display.

Conestoga currently has 40 different co-op programs that allow students to work in their chosen field, gaining valuable work experience.

Be the difference.
Respect

RESPECT CAMPAIGN STUDENT COMMITTEE
LEADERS WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOU

GOOD LUCK ON YOUR EXAMS
AND TO HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

**THANK YOU
DAY**

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AROUND CAMPUS AS THEY SHARE

THEIR OWN WAYS TO SAY TO YOU...

THANK YOU FOR BEING THE DIFFERENCE

**WEDNESDAY
APRIL 21**

Student
Life



PHOTO BY KAREN CHAMBER

The Gonzaga College athletic banquet was held April 8 at the Virginia of Columbus Center in Washington. Above, athletic coordinator Marlene Ford (left) and Paul DeLozier, director of recreation and athletics, right, stand with the female athlete of the year, Jocelyn Loader, and the male athlete of the year, Shane Diefelield.

Condors receive accolades, appreciation

By KAREN CHAMBER

A few of Gonzaga's athletes and coaches didn't find the event as often than just but it doesn't mean they did not have a good time at the process.

"We couldn't have more it without you" and maybe coach did Gonzaga before everything Kyle O'Neil, the team's most valuable player award and having a gut laughing.

The Gonzaga College athletic banquet was a mix of cheering, congratulations and watching away from the podium. There was one thing that was being an athlete at Gonzaga is an enjoyable experience. Was it last.

"It was a stress reliever for me and Jocelyn Loader. Gonzaga's female athlete of the year."

"It was something I want to be when I grow up and it would have been great without it. Loader was apparently her first year away from Gonzaga's women's soccer she agreed to do a double duty and join the team's volleyball team. After a successful season on both sides she was awarded with multiple players and two players in addition to the athlete of the year award, she was the women's indoor soccer team's most valuable player award after helping the team reach the NCAA final tournament.

Shane Diefelield played not just for Gonzaga's men's

team, but was well known. He was the most valuable player for both teams. The keeper of the defensive paperman. Condors definitely did his part in the team's journey to the NCAA's final and was named male athlete of the year.

"It's been an unbelievable year" said Diefelield after winning the award and carrying his team's trophy. "I came in with no expectations. It was a new year and a whole new team and it's kind of surreal."

Diefelield describes the Gonzaga soccer team this year in his word, "defensive."

"This was the best defensive team I've ever seen. I got a lot of shots, but it was because the defense was so good. Diefelield and 'I was the award, but it was a team effort."

After the awards were handed out the men's and women's soccer teams posed for photos, posed and congratulated the athletes of the year.

Diefelield mirrored the sentiments of Loader when asked about playing sports while in school.

"We what, hope we going to high school and it's what kept me going in college. It's what drove me."

AWARDS

Women's Volleyball
Coach's Award: April Cross

MVP: Jennifer Smith

Male Volleyball

Coach's Award: Kyle O'Neil

MVP: Matt Olson

Baseball

Coach's Award: Dave Wagner

MVP: Travis Nguyen

Cross Country Running

Coach's Award: Heidi

Baseball: Jordan Short

MVP: Jason Smith

Football

Coach's Award: Jessica

Defensive

MVP: Lauren Kiefer

Rugby

Coach's Award: Nick

MVP: Kyle O'Neil

Women's Outdoor Soccer

Coach's Award: Irene

Soccer

MVP: Jennifer Cross

Women's Indoor Soccer

Coach's Award: Cassie

Coach's Award

MVP: Jocelyn Loader

Men's Outdoor Soccer

Coach's Award: Jordan

Taylor

MVP: Shane Diefelield

Men's Indoor Soccer

Coach's Award: James

Medicine

MVP: Shane Diefelield

Female Athlete of the Year

Jocelyn Loader

Male Athlete of the Year

Shane Diefelield

Athletes' transgressions forgotten in victory

Tiger Woods earned back into the PGA tour at the Masters Golf Tournament on April 5 with his best score ever for a first day at the Augusta National Golf Club in Georgia. Fans cheered 30 deep when Woods started his round so they apparently held few ill feelings toward him.

I was very concerned to see how the fans reacted to Woods' return to golf after his car crash the Friday before Thanksgiving that led to the exposure of mass adultery, sex addiction, rehab and a marriage on the rocks. Would the fans welcome him back to golf in shame and too late?

There was a lot of the latter and more of the former. Woods performed his charity tennis fan pump to standing ovations from fans and about two weeks. However, the good feelings were a bit tainted by players saying he was "not a Tiger" and "not a Tiger" and "not a Tiger" in reference to his football religious beliefs, and "We didn't" "Yeah, Right, You're the Tiger!"

I guess many sports fans can be forgiving when it comes to scandals involving their heroes. Perhaps we realize that we are humans, not perfect and are willing to give second chances when the star seems to be making an effort to make amends.

I also wonder if the Tiger Woods era scandal will become ancient and forgotten news as the moves on and over and under and under the dog scandal surrounding Eric Lunsford Olympic show jumping champion, certainly seems to have faded into the past.



Jennifer Schaefer
Olympian

Lunsford was banned from the 1976 Olympic Games in Atlanta and again from Sydney Australia in 2000 both times for cocaine use. However, he managed to have his lifetime ban lifted to compete once again.

At the Beijing Olympics in 2008, Lunsford won the individual gold and also helped lead the Canadian team to silver. The celebration on the Canadian community showed little reminder of the failed drug tests. We were just happy to see up the Olympian.

We just celebrated up at a podium? And appear them to be perfect, but there is a scandal and we question whether they should be role models or not.

Imagine how I guess say, "Mom, when I grow up I want to be successful, live wildly and use drugs, get caught speaking then was an Olympic gold."

Not exactly what a parent wants to hear.

In a way I'm glad that we can recognize that celebrities are people too and eventually make mistakes. But I think we should be a bit more consistent with our forgiveness, not only extend it when the individual brings glory to our country or because they are particularly gifted.

A cheerleader would never shout, a Tiger Wood, but only in his coverage, not in golf.



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